



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Application of:

Babak NEMATI

Serial No.: 09/777,639

Filed: 7 February 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS TO
ENHANCE OPTICAL TRANSPARENCY OF
BIOLOGICAL TISSUES

Art Unit: 3763

Examiner: M. Hayes

Atty. Docket: P66960US1

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Official Action mailed 1 October 2002, the response to which was set to expire on 1 January 2003. A Petition for an Extension of Time for two months under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and the appropriate fee has been filed to extend the due date for responding to the Official Action to 1 March 2003. The pending claims, claims 1-16, were rejected. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

AMENDMENT

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-16.

Please add new claims 17-31 as follows:

70 17. (New) A method for enhancing the optical transparency of a biological tissue of a subject wherein the tissue is covered by a surface permeability barrier, comprising:

- (a) contacting the surface permeability barrier with a clarifying agent, and
- (b) applying a driving force to the surface permeability barrier to deliver the clarifying agent to the covered biological tissue,

and thereby enhancing the optical transparency of the covered biological tissue.